

# News

## WINTER 2021



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

#### Happy Holidays!

As you can see while traveling down Memphis Avenue, we are in the construction phase of the new police station and city hall. This project will ultimately serve as the hub of our City Center project with the addition of a new

public library, which you can read about in this issue, to be constructed on the land of the current city hall and police station. With a healthy financial foundation, we are continuing to invest in our city buildings, land and equipment for employees with \$6 million being spent on capital items. We are also looking to improve our city's entrances and overpass bridges with landscaping and new signage.

Our planning and zoning code update process, which has been underway for a few months now, is moving along nicely. Our current Planning and Zoning Code is over 30 years old, and it does not

accurately reflect the community we are today and the vision we have for our future. This update will assist us in becoming the city we want to be while protecting those things we value most. Please visit our planning and zoning code website at [brooklynhozhoning.com](http://brooklynhozhoning.com) to track the progress and for any questions you may have. **We are Moving Forward. Together!**

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year! We expect great things in Brooklyn in 2022 ●

**Mayor Katie Gallagher**

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# Winter Activities



The holiday season is here, and it's a great time to join us at the Brooklyn Senior Center to participate in some of our activities, which are all open to the public. We hope to see you there and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2022!

As you are browsing the activity listings below, please remember that if the Brooklyn City Schools are closed for bad weather then the Senior Center and our senior bus transportation will be closed as well. Please call us with any questions Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 216-635-4222. This event schedule is subject to change, please call to confirm before you come.

**Ceramics Class:** Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Try your hand at making a bowl or vase, or just browse to see what is on sale for Christmas.

**Corn Hole (indoors in winter months):** Mondays, 10 a.m. Drop-ins are welcome for a few fun rounds of this classic beanbag toss game.

**Chair Yoga:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 – 10 a.m. Join instructor Sandy Prince for gentle stretching while seated.

**SS Low Impact Aerobics:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 – 10 a.m. Join instructor Sandy Prince for a workout that's low on bouncing and jumping for joint comfort.

**Bocce:** Women – Wednesday mornings, Men – Thursday mornings. Call if interested in joining weekly team play.

**Wii Bowling:** Group play Friday mornings. Call if interested in joining.

**Pizza and a Movie:** 11:30 a.m.  
January 12 – Movie is "Queen Bee," a comedy about the young at heart, starring Ellen Burstyn, James Caan, Ann Margaret, and Christopher Lloyd. Free event sponsored by The Village of Marymount.

February 14 – Movie is "Home Again" a romantic comedy starring Reese Witherspoon. Event is free, pizza donated by Brooklyn Point Assisted Living and Memory Care.

**Valentine Wreath Class:** Thursday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 and includes all materials needed.

**Free Cooking Demonstrations:** Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
January 26 – Chicken Paprikash with Chef Miro from Vista Springs Greenbriar Village, Parma. A lunch sampling provided for all who sign up. Please RSVP by Feb 15.

February 23 – Cuban Sandwiches with Chef Miro from Vista Springs Assisted Livings. Come and watch how to prepare this Latin favorite.

March 23 – Soup Demo sponsored by The Village of Marymount. What is better than a nice warm bowl of soup on a cold day? Free bowl to all attending. RSVP by March 17.

**BINGO:** Tuesday, January 25, 11 a.m. Free. Prizes by Dedicated Health & Cuyahoga County SCAMO. RSVP by January 18.

**Coffee with the Mayor:** Friday, March 11, 9 – 10 a.m. All are invited.

**Easter Wreath Craft Class:** Thursday, March 24, 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 and includes all materials needed. ●

*Keep in mind that if the Brooklyn City Schools are closed for bad weather then the Senior Center and our senior bus transportation will be closed as well. Staff will be available by phone. Remember that all events are subject to change.*

## Welcome to Sarah Sacha!

Sarah was recently hired as a full-time corrections officer. She previously was employed as a corrections officer with the North Royalton Police Department. Sarah makes her home in Brooklyn and is excited to be part of the process of moving into the new City Center in the next year. Welcome aboard, Sarah!

## Well Wishes

**Gary Sundermeier** – A fond farewell to Gary Sundermeier, who served the city as a Special Police Officer for 51 years. Gary was hired in 1970 as an auxiliary police officer. In 1972 he went to the Police Academy and became a Special Officer. Gary was promoted to Captain of the Auxiliary Unit where he organized trainings, schedules and worked thousands of hours at private security details. He also worked for the city during storms, traffic control, special events and park patrol. Gary also organized and participated in the Police Auxiliary's Santa's visit to Brooklyn every year since 1970. He served as Santa Claus for 36 years and volunteered hundreds of hours appearing as Santa to anyone that asked during the holiday season. Thank you, Gary, for representing the City of Brooklyn with pride and professionalism.

**Regis Barrett** – Well wishes to Regis Barrett, who's stepping down from the Zoning Board of Appeals after serving for 23 years. Regis served as Chairman for many years, providing thoughtful insight and oversight to several zoning issues. Thank you, Regis, for your goodwill and dedicated service to our city.

**Valerie Thompson (not pictured)** – After serving for 15 years as the Executive Director for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Valerie Thompson is moving on from her role. In addition to coordinating the Chamber's memberships, monthly luncheons, community and networking events, communications and scholarships, Valerie planned the popular Picnic in the Park with fireworks and the Taste of Brooklyn Scholarship fundraising event. Throughout her time, she was an integral part of the growth of the Brooklyn Chamber and their presence in the community. ●

### NEW HIRE



Sarah Sacha

### RETIREMENTS



Gary Sundermeier



Regis Barrett

## Veterans Honored at Special Ceremony

The Senior Community Center hosted a special Veterans Day Pinning Ceremony in November. Thank you to our veterans for their service and sacrifice to this great nation. We are forever grateful. Thank you to Maureen Shannon and Nate Gradisher of the Hospice of the Western Reserve, Pastor Michael of the Bethany Assembly of God Church, VA nurse litigator Natalie Walk Strange Principal Brian Hare and the students of BHS, American Legion Post 469, Mayor Katie Gallagher, Chief Kevin Paul and the Fire Department and Walmart for being a part of the ceremony. ●



## New Police Programs Aim to Curb Theft

**With a large presence of big box retailers, Brooklyn police handle a lot of retail theft complaints every day – in fact it is the number one type of case for our police. To combat theft, the City of Brooklyn has implemented the following actions.**

Our Detectives have developed a quarterly progress meeting with loss prevention officers from retail stores. They work hand in hand to share ideas, intelligence and promote best practices to help minimize theft and prosecute offenders.

City Council passed **legislation** that makes it mandatory for big box retailers to have loss prevention officers on premises.

The city recently installed 17 **license plate reader cameras** in the commercial corridors to assist police with identifying suspects and performing follow-up investigations. Please note that these cameras are not speed cameras, and are not used to issue traffic citations.

Most **thefts from vehicles** are crimes of opportunity, meaning thieves strike when they see valuables in plain sight and when cars are left unlocked. Preventing theft is simple: lock your doors and secure all your items out of view. It is simple, and it works.

**You can help us reduce crime.** If you see any suspicious activity or something just doesn't seem right, please call us at 216-749-1234. Many incidents are solved because of a call from the public. It is always better to report something than do nothing at all. Together, we can continue to keep Brooklyn safe. ●



## New Path Extensions Along Stickney Creek

The Stickney Creek stream restoration was recently completed. This included the naturalization of the creek area by removing the gabion walls. In doing that, the existing trail along the creek and ford were removed. Educational boards are available in the park explaining the project. With the help of grant by the State of Ohio, a trail extension was added by Roadaon Road in November and this will be enhanced in 2022 along with the installation of a foot bridge over the creek and trail extension in the lower portion of the park connecting to the Historical Society parking lot off Ridge Road. A complete repaving of all of the trails in the park will happen as part of the 2022 Capital Plan. Construction for all of this work should be completed by summer 2022. ●



Looking for a little traffic relief? Past reports from ODOT show that 29,845 vehicles travel east on I-480 daily and 21,709 vehicles travel west on I-480 every day. Thankfully, the Ridge Road corridor adjacent to I-480 will get some help from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), which will be installing the STOP (Signal Timing and Optimization Program) along Ridge Road from Pearl to Denison Avenue. The STOP installation will target outdated and inefficient signal timing, which can cause unnecessary delays and congestion. Prior efforts to improve signal timing on this stretch of Ridge Road were impeded by the fact that a state route goes through the three cities of Brooklyn, Cleveland and Parma. Brooklyn can only control a certain number of traffic lights on Ridge Road, and subcontracts with Signal Service, while both Cleveland and Parma have internal signal workers. The NOACA project will help coordinate efforts in all three cities. The estimated cost to upgrade each intersection is \$25,000. The STOP installation is expected to be complete by the end of 2022 (or approximately nine months after the project gets final approval, which is expected in February). The timing of the Ridge Road traffic signal improvements will align with the upcoming repaving of Ridge Road from Flowerdale to Pearl Road, which is scheduled to take place in late 2022. There will be progress, but drivers can expect delays while both projects are happening. Once completed, the new timing of the traffic signals will be a benefit to the Ridge Park Square area. ●

## NEW PROJECTS AND SERVICES PART OF CITY'S \$6M Capital Investment

The city continues to invest in infrastructure and making sure to provide employees with the best possible equipment, as well as maintain city streets and community safety. Currently, the city is planning for \$6 million in new capital expenses. The following items and projects are included in the \$6 million to be spent, and have been prioritized after city leadership ranked and measured potential projects to align with the city's strategic plan.

### RECREATION

- Repaving Memorial Park walking trails
- Adding parking security, cameras, lighting for Marquardt Park
- Compressor rebuild;
- Renovating two ballfields
- Updating way-finding signage

### SERVICE

- Replacing the Service Garage roof
- \$1.1 million road project to include Rabbit Run, Westbrook Dr. Boxwood Circle, Ivywood Dr., Autumn Ln., Hammond Ave. and the city's portion of repaving Ridge Rd. along with Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland
- New one-armed garbage truck to replace an original that was converted

### POLICE

- New vehicles and tasers

### FIRE

- Defibrillators, cardiac monitors, thermal imager and SCBA masks. Wrap up high efficiency lighting at fire station.

### GENERAL

- Redoing fencing along Tiedeman Road bridge over I-480 ●



### BROOKLYN RECREATION CENTER

## Update

### MARQUARDT PARK REVITALIZATIONS CONTINUE

Ongoing improvements at Marquardt Park are underway. Here is a schedule of what updates will be finished in the coming months.

### FITNESS EQUIPMENT PHASE II

Expect new fitness equipment to be installed in the location of the old pavilion in early 2022. The equipment will be usable by all ages and ability levels and will help supplement walking and running activities on the park path. We would appreciate your feedback on the equipment so we know what more we can add in coming years. Email us at [recinfo@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:recinfo@brooklynohio.gov)

### RESTROOM FACILITIES PHASE II

The Marquardt Park restroom facilities will undergo a complete renovation in 2022. These renovations will include the following:

- New bathroom fixtures (sinks, toilets, dispensers, trash receptacles)
- New interior lighting
- New exterior lighting
- Security locks with timers
- New interior and exterior paint
- New roof
- New landscaping

The restroom building will receive a complete visual and mechanical makeover to complement the new pavilion and playground area.

### PARK LIGHTING AND SECURITY CAMERAS

Marquardt Park will expand on its new look with path lighting and will offer increased safety measures with the installation of security cameras. With the new park amenities and renovations, the final piece of the revitalization project will be to light the area to make it both safer and visually appealing to park users. Residents have requested the security cameras for the past few years and they will be a much welcomed addition to the park. Expect these projects to take place in mid to late 2022 as the city is working to secure grant funding for this project.

### BRC 2022 YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION

Visit our website [brooklynrec.com](http://brooklynrec.com) for youth baseball, softball, soccer, and volleyball registration. Some dates to remember:

- Spring Volleyball: Register January 15 – February 15
- Spring Soccer: Register February 1 – March 1
- Summer Youth Baseball/Softball: Register February 15 – March 15



### BRC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Brooklyn Recreation Center is looking for individuals to join our team for the jobs listed below. If you are looking for part-time work, a flexible schedule, and a fun and challenging work environment, visit [brooklynohio.gov/Jobs](http://brooklynohio.gov/Jobs) to apply.

Jobs available include:

- Lifeguard
- Recreation Supervisors
- Recreation Maintenance
- Summer Grounds Crew
- Cashiers
- Concession Staff

### Thank You Partners!

Thank you to all partner groups who made our programs and events a success in 2021. We hope you all will stay involved with our department for years to come.

A big thank you goes out to:

- BW3
- FOP Lodge 21
- NOPEC
- Brooklyn Pointe
- Learn To Skate
- Jinisha Patel State Farm
- Raising Canes
- Hudec Dental
- Swenson's
- Compassus Hospice
- Vendors Exchange
- Girl Scouts Troop 70381
- The K Company
- Dina's
- Ridge Park Square
- V&M Machining and Grinding
- Sam's Club ●





## City Center Construction Moving Ahead

The new parking lot for the recreation center is completed and the City Center project has begun. Sitework for the project including tree clearing and initial site grading is finished and underground site utilities have been installed. The building foundation is set to begin in 2022. Other activities on the site will include underground plumbing for the building and replacement of the existing chain link fencing along the Brookway Lane side which will occur in late December/January. ●



## Assistance Program for Sewer Bills Expands

Beginning in January 2022, an area of focus for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will be managing costs and assisting those most in need of help to pay their monthly sewer bills. The Affordability Program will be open to renters and the income threshold increased from 200% to 250% of poverty level to include more of those who need help paying their monthly Sewer District bill. For example, a family of three earning less than \$54,900 in household income would be eligible for assistance. The continued partnership with the Cleveland Housing Network assists them in reaching those who may be newly eligible for the programs. Call 216-881-8247 for more information or visit [neorsd.org](https://neorsd.org). ●

## New Brooklyn Branch Library to be Built

Thirty years ago, the City of Brooklyn issued debt to build a new Brooklyn Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) at the corner of Ridge Road and Hurricane Alley on land owned by the Brooklyn City School District. The new, approximately 17,000-square-foot facility replaced the original CCPL Brooklyn Branch, a 2,500-square-foot library that opened in December of 1957.

In the near future, CCPL will expand its footprint in Brooklyn once again. Upon completion of the new police station and city hall on Memphis Avenue, the city will work with CCPL to construct a new 25,000 square foot Brooklyn Branch on city-owned land once occupied by the former city hall, police, and fire station buildings. It is important to note that the new library will be funded by a tax levy passed by Cuyahoga County residents in 2020. Brooklyn taxpayers will not be asked for additional funding for its construction.

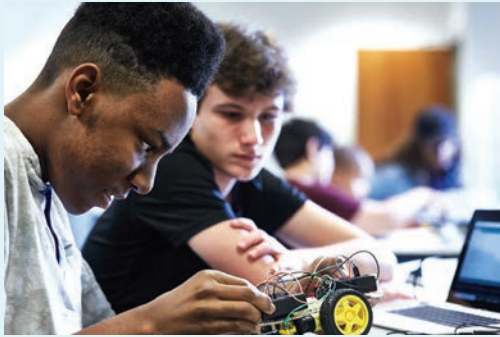
The addition of a larger, modernized library along Memphis Avenue will benefit our community in a number of exciting ways. First, the new library will be better equipped to support residents' needs now and into the future, with a flexible design that can adapt as community needs change over time, more public computer stations, meeting spaces and dedicated areas for children and teens.

Second, the new library will allow CCPL to provide more services to our community. For example, technology training classes, high school equivalency diploma classes and interactive STEAM programs for K-12 students – to name a few. We all know that CCPL has an amazing collection of books and other materials, but they also provide county residents with reliable internet access, after-school and summer meal programs for kids, a variety of educational programs, and visits from best-selling authors. We can look forward to more of those kinds of services in our community when the new Brooklyn Branch opens.

Third, a new CCPL Brooklyn Branch will be a tremendous addition to the developing civic center that we envision along Memphis Avenue.

CCPL has a long and successful track record of turning buildings over to cities and school districts for public reuse. Brooklyn City School District will resume ownership of the existing Brooklyn Branch after the new library opens. The building will become the home of the district's new digital learning academy, which will host a variety of programs and staff developmental opportunities.

As part of the planning and design of the new Brooklyn Branch, the Library and their architects want to hear from Brooklyn residents about what kinds of spaces and services should be in the new library. There will be opportunities for residents to share opinions and ideas in the new year. Visit [cuyahogalibrary.org](https://cuyahogalibrary.org) to receive the Library's weekly newsletter in your inbox to stay informed about library happenings. ●



## UPDATE Brooklyn Completes Preliminary Phases of Planning and Zoning Code

Modernizing the city's Planning and Zoning Code was one of the major recommendations from the Master Plan. Beyond outdated terminology and definitions, the current code doesn't provide adequate protections for the environment, promote sustainability or require quality design.

After a competitive process, the city retained planning firm McBride Dale Clarion to guide the process of updating the Planning and Zoning Code. The firm recommended a four phased approach to rewriting the code that would take approximately 18 months to complete.

With an initial public meeting in July, the city hosted the second public meeting in October. The following highlights some of the key takeaways from the initial public meetings and provides a preview of the process going forward.

### PHASE 1 - LISTENING & LEARNING SESSION

Mayor Gallagher kicked off the first public meeting and introduced the lead consultant on the project. Following a brief presentation, the consultants guided meeting participants through an exercise designed to answer the following questions:

- What do we love about Brooklyn, and what are we trying to protect?
- What are we trying to build upon?
- What should the community look and feel like?

Brooklyn residents presented concerns about:

- Preservation of city parks and open spaces
- Additional multi-family development
- Compatibility of use and development
- Transparency during the update process

Brooklyn residents want

- More flexibility in constructing residential accessory structures and pool
- Senior housing options that blend with the community
- Brooklyn to be a place for young families
- Developments to be held to a high standard of quality

### PHASE 2 - IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES SESSION

During the second virtual public meeting, the consultants presented the Planning and Zoning Code Rewrite Diagnosis and Proposed Outline, addressing the goals, analysis of Brooklyn's current zoning regulations, and a proposed outline.

### PHASE 3 - DOING THE WORK

In December, the update project will shift into its third phase which will focus on drafting the updated regulations and new zoning code document. This is scheduled to take eight months, with a public meeting being held every two months so residents can review each of the four modules which include:

- Zoning Districts and Use Regulations
- Standards for Development and Design
- Administration, General Provisions and Review Procedures
- Definitions

### PHASE 4 - ADOPTION AND FINAL PRODUCTION

During the final phase, residents will be able to review the entire draft of the code and provide final comments. The final draft requires approval by both the Planning Commission and City Council. Any zoning map changes or new districts recommended in the final draft will then go to a referendum vote of the people in November 2022. ●

We encourage residents that want to learn more about the process to visit [BrooklynOHZoning.com](https://BrooklynOHZoning.com).

If you have any questions or comments about the Planning and Zoning Code update, please contact Brooklyn's Economic Development Director/City Planner, Jeremy Rowan, at [jrowan@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:jrowan@brooklynohio.gov).



## MOVING FORWARD. **TOGETHER.**

### Brooklyn Hometown Military Banner Program

Any current or former Brooklyn resident who is currently serving or has served our country in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps., Coast Guard, or National Guard is eligible for a Hometown Military Banner.

Each banner will feature a picture of a hometown hero, his or her name, branch of service, and name of the sponsor. The double sided 30" x 60" banner will be displayed along Cpl. Knight Commons and Veterans Memorial Park from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

To order a banner and request an application form, contact John Verba at 216-625-4219 or [jverba@brooklynohio.gov](mailto:jverba@brooklynohio.gov). The cost for a banner is \$130.00. Applications must be postmarked by March 18, 2022.

The banner will be kept in safe storage until the following year when the banner may be displayed again at a display cost of \$25.00 per year.

The City of Brooklyn is not responsible for replacing banners that are stolen, damaged, or destroyed due to age, vandalism or any acts of nature, including high winds. ●



### From Our Fire Department

## Christmas Tree Safety Tips



**As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.**

- Cut approximately two inches from base of trunk for better tree hydration
- Make sure to add water daily to prevent the tree from drying out and increasing risk of ignition
- Place tree minimum three feet away from any heat source such as radiators, heat vents, lights, candles, or fireplaces

- Use indoor lights that have been laboratory tested and are free from any wear or breaks in the cord exposing wires.
- Follow the manufacturer's guide on the amount of continuous strands allowed to be connected together
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before bed or leaving the house. Be sure to get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home. ●

